

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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P 172224Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3841

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8227

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: DATE FOR ELECTIONS SET

1. EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT OCTOBER 17 HAS BEEN DECIDED ON AS DATE FOR NEXT ELECTIONS. OTHER PARTIES MAY NOT BE OVERJOYED THAT ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD ON PERONIST LOYALTY DAY. INDEED, A UCR CONTACT HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED OUTRAGE IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF.

2. ANNOUNCING DATE FOR ELECTIONS JUST NOW, EVEN BEFORE CONGRESS HAS SET THEM FORWARD, IS RATHER OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION. MRS. PERON HAS LOST MAJORITY IN CONGRESS AND DISSIDENT DEPUTY CARLOS PALACIO DEHEZA LEVELED NEW BLAST AT GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 15, DESCRIBING IT AS BESET BY TREMENDOUS POWER VACUUM AND DEMANDING IMPEACHMENT OF A NUMBER OF CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER "CORRUPT OFFICIALS." BA HERALD REPORTED HIM AS SAYING THAT UNLESS THERE WERE SOLUTIONS SOON "WE WON'T EVEN GET TO 1976." NO OTHER PAPER REPORTED THAT PARTICULAR REMARK, BUT IT IS ONE HE HAS MADE BEFORE.

3. MINISTER OF DEFENSE VOTTERO MEANWHILE HAS PUBLICLY COMPLAINED THAT GROUPS OF CIVILIANS AND RETIRED MILITARY ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, THOUGH HE EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE THAT SUCH PLOTS WOULD FAIL. SETTING DATE FOR ELECTIONS MAY BE MEANS OF DRAWING ATTENTION AWAY FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES.

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HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS08227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750439-0282
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcnx.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATE FOR ELECTIONS SET
TAGS: PINT, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006